

House welfare reform bill—Personal Responsibility Act—is precise and accurate. I know my constituents would find this chapter of particular interest, if not shocking. South Dakotans work hard every day to provide for their families without Government assistance. They pride themselves on hard work, but as the book points out, the failed welfare system promotes costly dependency. Jim offers more than just a legislative history of this sensitive issue. He demonstrates the basic social need that requires Congress to act on this problem.

The importance of history cannot adequately be underscored. History—the understanding of history—is our map of not only our past, but also our future. “Legislating the Revolution” is a compelling map of an exciting past and an extraordinary future for policymakers and voters. It is a must read for every American.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today, I join with many of our colleagues in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Today marks the exact day when 200 of the Armenia's academic, political, and religious leaders were taken from the city of Istanbul in 1915. The ability of Armenians to free themselves from the Ottoman Empire rested heavily on the plans and ideas of those who vanished. It was an ominous beginning to one of this century's darkest tragedies. This Senate should recognize and all Americans should remember, what occurred over there 81 years ago. That is why I stand here with my colleagues to urge an accurate remembrance of the past, of those who were slain by the Ottoman Turks, and plead that such hateful crimes against humanity never happen again. We stand in honor of those who were unable to take a stand 81 years ago today. We must try to heal the wounds of the past by remembering and recording the historical truths.

The Ottoman Empire's actions—deliberate, planned, and deceitful actions—against the Armenian people should be remembered for what it actually was—genocide. The Armenian genocide was a hateful act whose objective was focused on the systematic annihilation of a people, their heritage, their culture, their identity, and their future. It is unfortunate that in recent years historians and politicians alike have tried to soften the terms used to describe this heinous crime against humanity. What occurred involves deportation, slavery, the loss of basic human rights, and wholesale murder—all targeted deliberately and methodically against one ethnic group. The record is clear. Genocide is genocide. To shy away from recognizing the Armenian genocide is to ignore and deny the historic truth, and that would put at risk the harsh lessons that must be learned if we are to avoid repeating that tragic history. The Armenians remember, but

all must recognize and embrace the past, painful as it may be. It is said that the bitter pills of the past are the better tonics of a brighter future.

About 600,000 Americans who consider themselves to be Armenians live in the United States. Many are survivors of the genocide, or are the children of survivors. About 1.5 million Armenians were killed or died during the mass deportation which began in 1915 and continued for many years. Two-thirds of all Armenians in Turkey were killed. In the region of Anatolia and western Armenia, the entire community of Armenians was extinguished or deported.

It has been 81 years since that awful tragedy. Turkey has not apologized to the Armenians. That is unfortunate.

Armenians are a strong, resilient people, struggling to heal the wounds of the past. But the wounds cannot be sealed until the story is complete. Until the Armenian genocide is officially acknowledged, the wounds will remain unhealed and the lessons will not be firmly learned. We do not deny the brutal nature of the Holocaust to the Jewish-American community. We are coming to grips with the severe violence against the people of Bosnia. We should not deny the Armenian people a similar place in history. To do so would dishonor ourselves, and spoil accurate understanding of the past. It is in the best interest of the American people and the entire global community to remember the past accurately. That is why we commemorate and honor those who were affected by the Armenian genocide.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,106,372,425,943.99.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,291.37 as his or her share of that debt.

81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, today marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. As Armenians gather worldwide today to commemorate the anniversary, I rise to pay tribute to the victims of this tragedy. Although some still refuse to recognize historical fact, there should be no doubt that the Armenian people suffered the first genocide of the modern age.

As many of my colleagues know, between the years 1915-23, 1.5 million Armenians were subjected to systematic extermination through a policy of deportation, torture, starvation, and massacre. At the time, the world recognized that the Ottoman Empire had committed a crime against humanity, though the term “genocide” would not be coined until years later. The United States condemned the brutal treat-

ment of the Armenians. The United States rendered humanitarian assistance to many of the survivors in the largest relief effort every organized by this country. Yet even with all the facts that we have before us, most of which have been compiled by U.S. sources, some still refuse to acknowledge that there was a genocide.

Most of us are willing to look history in the eye and see the danger of closing our eyes and hearts to the truth of the tragedy which took place. We will not cease in our efforts to remember what happened. This year, along with 25 of my colleagues, I signed a bipartisan letter urging the President to use the word “genocide” in his statement commemorating the anniversary. Mr. President, while nearly every other nation recognizes the Genocide, one nation still insists that the Genocide never happened—the Government of Turkey. As I have stated in the past, no responsibility for the history of the Genocide rests with either the Turkish people or their modern-day government. The Ottoman Empire, which committed the Genocide against the Armenians, has not existed since October 19, 1923. As Operation Desert Storm again demonstrated, Turkey is an important friend and partner to the United States, and we highly value our friendship with the Turkish Government and people. That friendship would not suffer from, and in fact, would be strengthened, by recognizing the fact of the Armenian Genocide.

At a time when the world is beset by problems, including acts of genocide, the United States cannot fail to send a unified message. Only by issuing a clear statement on genocide can the United States convey to the world our Nation's resolve and determination to prevent such crimes from recurring. We cannot allow history to dictate the future, but neither can we forget history nor turn our backs on the truth. On this 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, let all of us as Americans, even as we remember the tragic events of the past, rededicate ourselves to making sure it never happens again. Finally, I would add that President Clinton has just issued his statement commemorating the anniversary of the Genocide. It is unfortunate that unlike his statement in 1992, this year's statement does not use the historically correct word of “genocide” to describe what happened to the Armenian people from 1915 to 1923.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our letter to the President be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER,
Washington, DC, April 23, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This year marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Armenian-Americans throughout the United States and the world will be commemorating this event on April 24th.